(ix) Optimizing Teacher-Student ratios.

(x) Enlarging research and encouraging innovation on campuses.

(xi) Remedial Courses for weaker sections.

Shortage of qualified staff in engineering colleges

3607. SHR1 ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many engineering colleges, mostly in southern States are facing problems of shortage of qualified staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Kerala; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There is a shortage of teaching staff in the country, including the State of Kerala. As per the report of the Committee on "Faculty Development in Technical Education" constituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao, the total shortage of teaching staff in engineering & technology, during 2005-06, for the country as a whole, was about 40,000. This shortage was estimated based on the AICTE norms of teacher to student ratio as 1:15. Considering the shortage of well-qualified technical faculty in the country, the age of superannuation of teachers in Central Institutions has been enhanced from 62 years to 65 years. They can further be reemployed after superannuation till the age of 70 years.

Fee hike in private schools in Delhi

3608. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT bcpleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private schools in Delhi are considering fee hike due to the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) whether this hike is going to be 30 to 40 per cent;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider adopting some uniform fee structure for all the private schools, so that schools charge reasonable fee;

(d) whether Government would have realistic assessment of the Sixth Central Pay Commission and wage hike of school teachers and adopt uniform pattern; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A few private schools in Delhi have informed **the** Govt, of NCT of Delhi about their intention to revise their fee structure after the final decision of the Government on Sixth Pay Commission recommendations is taken. These schools have not indicated, quantum of hike in their fee structure.